

Application No. 10/508,880

Reply to Office Action

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the final Office Action dated August 8, 2007 and the references cited therein. Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 14-22 and 27-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious in view of Fonseca (U.S. Patent 6,660,950) in view of Barton (U.S. Patent 6,501,195). Claims 23-26 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection based on Fonseca and Barton.

As an initial matter, Barton does not teach an arrangement where the main device outputs further supply voltages to auxiliary devices. Rather, Barton switches on and off the line voltage (i.e., a 120 VAC power source) to the auxiliary devices. Thus, assuming that Fonseca and Barton were properly combinable, the result would be the PC being connected to the AC main device power outlet of Barton and the data line switch of Fonseca being connected to one of the AC peripheral power outlets of Barton. In such case, the data line switch of Fonseca would be connected to the 120 VAC power source (i.e., a line voltage), not to an internal supply voltage of the computer.

Furthermore, if Fonseca and Barton were combined in such a manner that the combined device were attached to an internal supply voltage of the computer, the combined device would not be operable to break the data connection to the PC when the computer supply voltage was absent. In particular, the automatic operation of Fonseca is achieved through the use of a motor 2022 (see Fig. 20) which switches Fonseca into the disconnect mode. The motor 2022 of Fonseca is connected to the computer via a control interface 2026 that provides a voltage from the computer which powers the motor. Additionally, Fonseca explains that the computer may be provided with software that helps control operation of the motor 2022. Thus, the motor 2022 relies upon the computer for power and control instructions. If the computer is shut down, the power supply and related control software for the motor 2022 that is provided by the computer disappears rendering the motor 2022 inoperable and as a result unable to switch the Fonseca/Barton combined device into the disconnect mode. Barton does not address this deficiency in the design of Fonseca in that it,


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as noted above, is designed to operate while attached to a line voltage that is always present. As a result, claim 14 is patentable over Fonseca and Barton. The claims depending from claim 14 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 14.

Applicant respectfully submits that the patent application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 8, 2007